

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT Army Training and Maneuvers

DATE DISTR. 10 March 1953

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF PAGES 6

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

Training Schedule.

1. The following information represents a sample of the daily training that was undergone by the sapper platoon and the fusilier platoon, Hq Co, 2nd Tank Regt:

Daily, Except Sunday

0600-	Reveille (Roll call)
0605-0625	Physical Training
0625-0640	Personal Hygiene
0640-0645	Prayer and Songs
0645-0700	Barrack Cleanup
0700-0730	Breakfast
0745-0755	News Information
0800-0810	Preparation for Training
0815-1700	Training
1700-1900	Care and Maintenance of Clothing and Equipment
1900-1930	Supper
1930-2145	Political Indoctrination and Leisure Period
2145-2150	Roll Call
2200-	Taps

SECRET

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC						
-------	----	------	----	------	----	-----	----	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

ARMY review completed.

**SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION**

-2-

25X1

**Monday**

0815-1300	Tactics
1300-1400	Dinner
1415-1500	Weapons Instruction
1515-1700	Manual of Arms

(Fifteen minute rest periods were provided at the beginning of each hour throughout the daily training schedule.)

**Tuesday**

0800-1000	Political Indoctrination
1015-1100	Weapons Familiarization
1115-1200	Close Order Drill
1215-1300	Sapper Instruction
1300-1400	Dinner
1415-1500	Technical Instruction
1515-1600	Manual of Arms
1615-1700	Obstacle Course

**Wednesday**

0815-0900	First Aid
0915-1100	Physical Training
1115-1200	CW Training
1215-1300	Regulations
1300-1400	Dinner
1415-1700	Tactics

**Thursday**

0815-0900	Weapons Familiarization
0915-1000	Obstacle Course
1015-1100	Hand Grenade Training
1115-1300	Close Order Drill
1300-1400	Dinner
1415-1500	Anti-tank Defense Training
1515-1600	Terrain Study
1615-1700	Practical Application

**Friday**

0815-1000	Political Indoctrination
1015-1300	Marksmanship
1300-1400	Dinner
1415-1500	Sapper Instruction
1515-1600	Weapons Familiarization
1615-1700	Signal Communications Training

**Saturday**

0815-1300	Cleaning of personal effects
1300-1400	Dinner

**Sunday**

0700-	Reveille (Roll call)
0700-0800	Personal Hygiene and clothing, equipment and barracks inspection
0800-0830	Breakfast
1300-1400	Dinner
1900-1930	Supper
2045-2050	Roll call
2100-	Taps

**SECRET**

## SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

25X1

Training Topics

2. The following are definitions and amplifications of specific training topics as given above:

- (a) **Tactics** - Practical field training in conjunction with the infantry in formulating defenses against the enemy. Hasty field fortifications and hasty covers were erected in conjunction with sapper and signal squads.
- (b) **Weapons Familiarization** - Theoretical instruction on carbines, PPSH, RKM, and FI and anti-tank grenades. Assembly and disassembly of weapons and sighting and aiming exercises.
- (c) **Political Indoctrination** - Topics such as Communism, progress in Poland, imperialism,
- (d) **Manual of Arms** - Instruction in the manual of arms and in aiming and firing positions.
- (e) **Close Order Drill** - Marching in close formation and at parades.
- (f) **Sapper Instruction** - Lectures on tactics and the classification and employment of mines.
- (g) **Technical Instruction** - Instruction on the construction and armament of tanks.
- (h) **Obstacle Course** - The men were armed with carbines and went over the following obstacles:
  - (1) Balance beams, 20 x 500 cm. The beams were placed one meter above the ground and troops had to cross them.
  - (2) Wooden wall, about 80 cm high. Troops had to overcome the obstacle by placing one foot on the obstacle before jumping.
  - (3) Fence, about 1½ m high. The obstacle was equipped with three rungs which were to be utilized by troops when scaling the obstacle.
  - (4) Wall, about 2.2 m high. The wall was to be scaled.
  - (5) Fence, about 70 cm high. Troops were to jump over the fence.
  - (6) Rifleman's trench. Troops had to jump over the trench after running up an incline four m long.
  - (7) Barbed wire entanglements, each 10 cm wide and suspended 50 cm above the ground. Troops were required to crawl under the obstacle.
  - (8) Trench, five by 1½ m. Troops threw blank grenades into the trench.
  - (9) Four dummies. Bayonets and rifle stocks were used in assaults on the targets.
  - (10) Ditch, four m long. Troops had to crawl through the ditch.
- (i) **First Aid** - Bandaging and lectures on venereal diseases.
- (j) **Physical Training** - Calisthenics and gymnastics.

25X1

SECRET

## SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-4-

25X1

- (k) Chemical Warfare Training - Instruction on types of gas masks, their use, protective clothing, and methods of checking a gassed area. For practical training, tear gas and smoke pots were used.
- (l) Regulations - Instruction on infantry regulations and guard duty.
- (m) Hand Grenade Training - Throwing of blank hand grenades at targets comprised of dummies and trenches.
- (n) Anti-tank Defense - Lecture instruction on defense against and destruction of tanks.
- (o) Terrain Study - Orientation with the aid of compass, sun, and map.
- (p) Practical Application - Field exercises designed to determine the soldiers' mastery of theoretical training on the estimation of distances by means of binoculars and the finger method, the spotting of a dug-in enemy, digging in, and the digging of fox-holes and trenches.
- (q) Signal Communications Training - Lectures on the importance of signal communications in wartime and the use and handling of signal equipment.
- (r) Policing and Cleanup - Cleanup of the barracks area.
- (s) Dayroom Period - Each company had a dayroom where political indoctrination was given by officers and NCO's on duty. The purpose of the training was to keep the soldier busy at all times.
- (t) Leisure Period - EM spent the time in the dayroom, where they could study military subjects, write letters, and read newspapers or books. The latter dealt mostly with political topics and were not understood by the men.
- (u) On Saturday afternoon the EM took showers, and every second week they received clean underwear by turning in the soiled.
- (v) Usually there was no training on Sunday, but 80 per cent of the EM who did not receive passes had to be given jobs by their NCO's. The men were not permitted to use their free time as they liked, but only as they were told and spent most of the time in dayrooms. Catholic and other church services had not been held since spring 1950.
- (w) Only about 50 per cent of the training schedule was carried out by the Fusilier and Sapper Platoons, because the EM of the platoons were invariably assigned to work details in the regiment.

## 3. Combat Readiness

- (a) [ ] in the Sapper Plat of the 2d Tk Regt, the combat efficiency and readiness could have been as high as 80 per cent. This estimate is based on the availability of clothing and equipment, the food and ammunition supply, the means of transportation, and the status of training, all of which were at about 80 per cent [ ] fully ready for combat. because of the work details that the Fusilier and Sapper Plats were assigned. 25X1
- (b) Tactical training in the Fusilier Plat was on a squad-platoon level wherein five to eight EM would flank a tank in carrying out an operation in cooperation with other platoon-sized units. 25X1

SECRET

## SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-5-

25X1

(c) [redacted] the Fusilier Plat all officers in assigned and attached units had to be familiar with the operation of tanks. Since 1950, however, the quality of the officers had depreciated considerably. [redacted] most of the officers were very young, poorly educated, had been trained too rapidly, and showed a lack of initiative, ingenuity and organizational ability. The EM were forced to accept everything without question with a resultant increase in apathy becoming more evident.

25X1

25X1

(d) [redacted] in 1950 and thereafter, [redacted] there were tanks, trucks, and vehicles in the Opole area. Most of those were of World War II manufacture and [redacted] there was little possibility of their being replaced.

25X1

25X1

Maneuvers

4.

25X1

(a) Summer Field Exercise (June-August 1949). The three-month summer field exercise (oboz letni) took place in the vicinity of Karlowice /5053N-1743E/ and the following units participated: Second Tk Regt, Sixth Tk Regt, u/1 signal unit of the 10th Tk Div, and an u/1 unit of the 32 (?) Mtz Inf Regt.

[redacted] Each unit went through its daily training schedule, and the field exercise was terminated after a short tactical maneuver. In the tactical maneuver the Fusilier Plat was employed as a unit supporting a tank attack. [redacted] some five or six fusiliers followed a tank.

25X1

25X1

(b) Winter Maneuvers (January-February 1950). The two-week maneuvers took place in the vicinity of Niemodlin /5039N-1737E/ and the 2d Tk Regt and an u/1 Mtz Inf Bn of the 32 (?) Mtz Inf Regt participated. The objective of the maneuvers was the practice of tank tactics with infantry support. Tank elements, consisting of two and three tanks, would move out toward an objective, and in each case two infantry squads would flank each tank, staying somewhat to the rear of the tank. [redacted] the winter maneuvers were not simply to have the infantry cooperate with tank elements, but also to toughen the men and to test the trafficability of the soil. The Fusilier Plat worked mostly with the Hq Co, performing general duties. Actual field tactical employment of the platoon was at a minimum; part of the platoon went through a simulated mine field with squads of five to six EM, giving infantry support to a tank. The open area was crossed in a series of moves wherein appropriate use of cover was made in attacking a simulated enemy position.

25X1

(c) Summer Maneuvers (June-August 1950). The three-month maneuvers took place in the Biedrusko /5223N-1657E/ training area. The area was about 30 square km in extent. The following units participated in the static maneuvers: Second and Sixth Tk Regts of the 10th Tk Div, u/1 units of the Eighth Lt Tk Regt, u/1 Arty units, u/1 units of the 32 (?) Mtz Inf Regt, 16th Independent Signal Bn, 21st Independent Sapper Bn, and an u/1 Medical Bn.

the

25X1

SECRET

## SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-6-

25X1

over-all mission was the training of all units in tank-infantry tactics. [ ] the tank tactics included movement to the jump-off position, flank movement, double envelopment, and digging in for fire position. The following tactics were employed by the units participating in the maneuvers:

25X1

- (1) Infantry units, followed by tanks, practiced attacks on positions.
- (2) Tanks and flanking infantry troops were employed in another maneuver.
- (3) Infantry units above were used in attacking fixed positions utilizing skirmish line, wedge, and diamond formations.

The Sapper Bn constructed wooden foot-bridges across water for the infantry and a metal Bailey-type bridge for tanks. The Bailey-type bridge, which was 15 to 20 m in length, was erected in approximately 40 minutes. [ ] the

25X1

bridge had a capacity of 60 tons. The Sig Bn installed, maintained, and repaired field telephone communications. Soviet type of field telephones were used during the maneuvers. Med Bn personnel were requisitioned from the military hospitals at Wroclaw /5107N-1702E/ and Opole /5040N-1756E/.

[ ] there was no established organizational Med Bn, and the medical personnel, as well as the Sapper and Sig Bns, were subordinated to the Second Armd Corps. The Sapper Plat played a very minor role in the maneuvers since its primary duty was to perform work details for Hq Co.

25X1

25X1

### Alert System in the Second Tk Regt

5. In 1950 practice and combat alerts were held. The same procedure was followed for both types of alert drills. Short siren blasts were to be used for combat alert, while long blasts signified a practice alert, and a runner in each unit had the duty of personally notifying the individual CO.

- (a) In a practice alert all unit personnel reported to the parade ground with their equipment, but without weapons. The tanks were driven to a point in front of their garages where they were parked. A practice alert usually lasted about one hour and it took the members of the regiment 45 minutes to be in their assigned places. Three such alerts took place in 1950.
- (b) In a combat alert all personnel reported to the parade ground with their equipment and weapons. The tanks were driven to a point in front of their garages and parked there. When all members of the unit were assembled at the parade ground, they went on a three to six km road march. Usually the entire alert lasted two hours; three such alerts took place in the 1949-50 period.

SECRET